229. Krishnappa, Mr., Mudbagal, Nagar Rural.
230. Mallappa Gowda, Mr. H., Sorab Rural.
231. Manjanna, Mr., Minorities.
232. Murigappa Gowda, Mr., Nagar Rural.
233. Ramanna Gowda, Mr. Tudki, Thirthahalli Rural.
234. Ramappa, Mr. Rattenahalli, Sagar Urban.
235. Rangappa, Mr. G. P., Honnali Rural.
236. Sher Khan, Mr., Minorities.
237. Siddabasappa, Mr. Surange, Shikarpur Rural.
238. Subba Rao, Mr. Malur, Tirthahalli Rural.
239. Suleman Khan, Mr., Kumsi Rural.
240. Veerabasappa, Mr. U., Shikarpur Rural.
241. Venkatagiriappa, Mr. Kanle, Sagar Rural.
242. Venkatagiri Rao Melavarige, Mr., Sagar Rural.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar (Special Interests).—

Q.—3. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) What is the charge per year on private installations of telephones?

(*b*) How many connections have been given to private individuals or non official public institutions in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore?

(*c*) Is it a fact that half rate is levied on certain classes of installations?

(*d*) What is the income from telephone connections from non-officials?

(*e*) What would be the result financially if a uniform rate of Rs. 90 per year were levied on all installations?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department:—

A.—3. (*a*) Rs. 180 per year.

(*b*) Bangalore City .... 50.
Mysore City .... 10.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Rs. 10,800 per year.

(*e*) The income would be reduced by Rs. 5,400.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

Is there any difficulty in the way of reducing the telephone charges?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

In the reply furnished, it has been stated that it would result in loss to Government.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

If the number of subscribers increases as a result of reduction of rates, will not the income to Government increase?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

If at least 200 more subscribers take telephone connections, there would be no loss to Government.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

In the case of certain installations, the charge levied is only Rs. 90. If the same charge is levied on all connections, will not more people be induced to take connections?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Just to cover the expenses of the department at the rate of Rs. 120 per annum, 200 more subscribers are required. If the rate is to be reduced to Rs. 90, we might require about 350 new installations. Otherwise, the Government will be put to loss.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

To induce others to go in for telephone connections, what attempts have the Government been making?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

The Director of Industries and the Chamber of Commerce are making enquiries but, so far only 75 people have come forward.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

In Bangalore City, there are any number of merchants. Why not Government request them individually to take connections?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Government as a body cannot possibly do so. The agencies referred to are making the necessary enquiries on behalf of Government.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

Do the merchants say that even at the reduced rate of Rs. 90 per installation, they cannot have the installations? Considering the fact that the telephone is one of the contrivances by which better trade facilities could be created, why not reduce the charges to Rs. 90?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

At present, there are 200 installations both official and non-official. This is the maximum number for a unit. If the number of installations has to be increased, another unit will have to be opened and that would mean an expenditure of nearly 1¼ lakhs. Capital to that extent is not forthcoming and so we cannot afford to extend the service and at the same time reduce the charges.

Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar.—

Would it not be desirable for either the Director of Industries and Commerce or any other Government agency to notify that telephone rates would be reduced to Rs. 90 if a stated number of additional subscribers came forward and thus induce the public to have connections?

Dewan.—

The Director of Industries and Commerce and the Chief Electrical Engineer will be asked to look into the matter.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

What is the reason for charging only Rs. 90 in the case of Government installations and as much as Rs. 120 in the case of others?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

It is only a matter of book-adjustment. How does it profit anybody if a higher charge is levied on Government installations and shown as paid?

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

I am not suggesting that the charge on Government installations should be enhanced. On the other hand, I am suggesting that charges on private installations should be reduced. But my question is what is the principle underlying such a differential treatment?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

The principle involved is that all the huge expenditure on the electric installations has been incurred by the Government and so some difference in its favour is called for.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

Was not an assurance given to the Chamber of Commerce that if 100 more subscribers came forward, the telephone charges would be reduced? If so, why is it that Government now want 200 more subscribers to come forward?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Formerly the reduction contemplated was to Rs. 140 or Rs. 150. But now the idea is to reduce the rate to Rs. 120.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

Did not the Chamber of Commerce write to Government that if the rate was reduced to Rs. 90 per installation, the Chamber would guarantee at least 100 new installations?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

The figures so far worked out relate to the question of reducing the rates to Rs. 120. If the rate has to be reduced to Rs. 90 as suggested, figures as to the number of subscribers required will have to be worked out afresh. Besides, the Rs. 90 rate does not exist anywhere in India, nor does it pay the Government to reduce it to that level.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

If it is done, more subscribers will come forward, trade will improve and that in turn will enhance the receipts from indirect taxation. So, the rate might be reduced to Rs. 90 and greater facilities afforded to merchants.

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

I cannot give any assurance.

Mr. P. Subbarama Chetty.—

At least the number of subscribers that may be required if the rate has to be reduced to Rs. 90 might be given.

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

That information will be furnished to the member.

Mr. C. N. Narasinga Rao.—

Is it not possible to open a public booth in each Police Station? Even 7 or 8 booths for the whole of Bangalore would do.

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Unless we expand the present exchange system, that will not be possible; and as already stated we shall require about Rs. 1¼ lakhs to open another unit.

Mr. C. N. Narasinga Rao.—

Is it not possible to remove a few of the existing connections and install public telephones in their places?

Secretary, to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

I do not think that would be a desirable step.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah.—

What is the maximum distance up to which the present rate applies?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

The present rate applies to all installations within the Bangalore City limits.

Mr. N. G. Sanjeeviah.—

Are the Government aware that in the Postal Department no extra rates are charged over distances up to 10 or 12 miles?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

The rates charged there are very much higher.

Dewan.—

I admit that our present telephone system is not quite satisfactory. At present there are only 200 lines and the question of providing more is under consideration. We may soon have the Bangalore–Madras Trunk connection, and if our telephone system is improved and linked with that, we will be in a position, for instance, to talk to Europe. We are trying to do it. Secondly, the Civil and Military Station which has at present its own exchange will probably be included within our unit under one and the same exchange when it returns to the State. All these questions take some time to get settled, but they are receiving attention.

Mr. H. R. Guruva Reddy.—

It was stated in reply to Mr. Sanjeeviah's question that the rate now charged applied only to installations within Bangalore City. There are installations outside the City such for instance as the Yelahanka Tile Factory, which are also charged the same rate. Why is it that no additional charge is levied in such cases?

Secretary to Government, Krishnarajasagara Works and Electrical Department.—

Notice.

Mr. M. A. Gopalaswami Iyengar (Special Interests).—

Q.—5. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) What is the total extent of land brought under cultivation under Irwin Canal?

(*b*) How many acres of land in the Irwin Canal area have been brought under sugar-cane cultivation; of these, how many acres belong to the Government and how many to private land-holders?

(*c*) What is the total quantity of sugar-cane produced—

(i) on Government and

(ii) on private land

since the starting of the Sugar Factory at Mandya?